

THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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Questions or comments about the activities in this issue should be directed to the contact people named. To subscribe to THE DISSEMINATOR, send a message to listserv@nshpl.library.ns.ca and enter the following text in the body of the message: **subscribe dissem-list yourfirstname yourlastname**. Comments on or suggestions for THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Gillian Webster (webstegs@gov.ns.ca).

IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURE ARTICLES

Note from the Editor

Norman Horrocks Honoured by UK Association

Meet one of the students working at the Kentville Branch Library

Automation Working Group of the N. S. Regional Libraries - Quarterly Meeting Report

The New Library Public Awareness Working Group

Report on the Nova Scotia Internet Handbook

NWT Learning Network for the New Millennium

Future Role of National Archives and National Library

Training News

Staffing News

COLUMNS

LINKed

Reference on the Net

Professional Reading

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Please note that the report on the N.S. regional libraries strategic plan is on the Provincial Library

website. The report is entitled "Access For All : A Strategic Plan for Public Libraries in Nova Scotia" and can be accessed on the *What's New at NSPL* page at <http://www.library.ns.ca/whatsnew.html>. Any updates on this topic will be posted on the *What's New at NSPL* page.

NORMAN HORROCKS HONOURED BY UK ASSOCIATION

Congratulations are extended to Dr. Norman Horrocks, Adjunct Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies, who has been elected an Honorary Fellow of The Library Association of the United Kingdom. Dr. Horrocks came to Dalhousie University in 1971 and became the Director of the School in 1972 and the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies in 1983. He left Dalhousie in 1986 to become Editorial Vice President of Scarecrow Press, a book publisher in the United States. In 1995 he returned to Dalhousie as Adjunct Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies while continuing as an editorial consultant for Scarecrow Press of Lanham, Maryland. The Honorary Fellowship of The Library Association will be conferred on Dr. Horrocks in October 1998 in London, England, in recognition of an outstanding contribution to relations between the profession in North America and the United Kingdom.



MEET ONE OF THE STUDENTS WORKING AT THE KENTVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY

Letters from appreciative library users are always welcome, and a recent note from a satisfied user at the Kentville Branch Library prompted staff to look more closely into this particular case. The patron had picked up a lot of useful computer skills from Sarah MacKenzie, an Acadia University student, and noted that Sarah had given him confidence in continuing on his own. Readers might like to know something about Sarah. She was employed as a summer student at the Kentville Branch in 1997. At that time, she was helping children with reading difficulties and conducting story time sessions. Sarah liked the job so much that when she was offered the chance to work at the same branch on a different project, she was happy to accept. She is currently employed there on an eight week program as a part-time Internet worker, teaching computer skills. Sarah loves teaching people of all ages, and so its not surprising that she is taking a degree in education. A Wolfville resident for now, Sarah is from London, Ontario, where she began volunteer work in the Arts at sixteen and has continued to do so ever since. Sarah isn't sure what the future holds, but she is taking English as a Second Language and hopes to travel abroad to teach when her studies are completed. In the meantime, it is great to know that libraries can draw on such talented folk as Sarah!



Annapolis Valley
Regional Library

REPORT OF THE AUTOMATION WORKING GROUP (AWG) OF THE NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL LIBRARIES

The quarterly meeting of the Automation Working Group was held at Provincial Library on February 20th. All participants met first at the Glendale Avenue branch of Halifax Regional Library (HRL) where Debbie Nicholson, Andrew Curran, Nancy Fullerton, James Marriott and Cori Pearson gave AWG members a tour and explanation of their working mobile branch. HRL have successfully operated their mobile libraries using cellular technology and direct dial-up to their library catalogue situated in Halifax, for more than one year now. Their experiences were most helpful to the planning process for those regional libraries on NcompasS which have mobile branches, despite the differences in the two configurations. Regional libraries on NcompasS will be using PC's rather than dumb terminals, and will be dialling in to the Provincial WAN, EDnet, rather than to Halifax.

The second high point of the day was a demonstration of the new web-based NcompasS catalogue by Johanna Cooper. This included showing how each region can choose their own bank as the default at the initial logon, and how this can be extended to not only other banks on NcompasS but beyond to other library catalogues such as Novanet. This single window view on many Nova Scotia library catalogues will be of great value to public library patrons in the future.

Charlotte Janes of Annapolis Valley gave an enthusiastic report on their first experiences with collection exchange. The AVR staff find it fast and easy to use. One hundred percent of all items marked as rotatable in the Annapolis Valley collection will be exchangeable by the end of an 18 month cycle. Finally, various Provincial and Regional Library staff reported on the ongoing consultations with MT&T over the priority queueing of telnet sessions over EDnet and the current testing of the mobile branch routes in Annapolis Valley for cellular connectivity in the 3 watt range. Results so far look promising for attaining fully interactive telnet sessions at all stops.

THE NEW LIBRARY PUBLIC AWARENESS WORKING GROUP

A group of Chief Librarians, community relations staff from the regional public libraries and a library trustee representing the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia met on March 27, 1998 to discuss the focus for the Library Public Awareness Working Group. The group is trying to bring together a consensus of ideas for promoting libraries in Nova Scotia. A listserv, LPA-L, has been set up to provide a means of discussion among the group members. At the head of the list for province-wide media promotion is the Summer Reading Program. As well, the job description for a Public Information Officer at the Provincial Library was circulated to the group for comment. Part of the group toured the Communications Department at the Halifax Regional Library. This was a most informative visit. File cabinets of stock photos and state of the art desk-top publishing capabilities aid skilled graphic designers and a communications specialist who make up the team.



INTERNET HANDBOOK DEMAND GROWS



With the Nova Scotia Internet Handbook now complete, public libraries throughout the province are now receiving their own copies to help inform and train the public about the Internet. The handbook, consisting of two practical modules, has been sent out to all 76 branches with demand for copies growing both inside and outside the province. While the handbook contains an overall view of Internet training materials, it is hoped staff will develop their copies into a tool that meets their particular software and training needs. To accomplish this task, disks have been included with the handbooks and a web

page with this information is being designed by Internet Trainer/Designer Liza Gagnon, one of the two Internet contract workers located at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. The Handbook will be mounted on the Provincial Library Home Page - look for it after April 21st at <http://www.library.ns.ca/provlib/handbook98/index.html>.



Craig Cormier (left) and Liza Gagnon (right) working together on the Internet Handbook at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library.

On March 23rd, Craig J. Cormier, the second Internet



Handbook trainer working out of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, attended a training session in Whitney Pier Junior High School put on by field workers for the Nova Scotia Advisory Council for the Status of Women. Over the past 8 weeks

Carmelita Chaisson and Jennifer Kanne, the two field workers, have delivered 19 training sessions to over 130 people in the Sydney area. The sessions all across the province have been well attended by the public. For example, Jason MacKenzie, one of the Handbook field workers in Yarmouth, held a training session for 17 people one evening.

NWT LEARNING NETWORK FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Marion Pape was recently invited to the NWT to participate in and present at a focus group session on Distance Learning North of 60. This was a high profile event with participation from across the NWT as well as from other parts of the country. The object was to develop a consensus around a plan to build an NWT Learning Network for the New Millennium that would provide infrastructure and services to support learning initiatives. A considerable amount of research was conducted prior to the focus group session including the development of community profiles for an eastern (Cape Dorset) and a western Arctic (Fort Simpson) community.

The partners suggested for this initiative include public and private sector, aboriginal organizations, Union of Northern Workers, and multiple elements of the education sector in both the Eastern and Western Arctic. It will be a challenge indeed to bring all the players together. Target users of the new network include schools, colleges and libraries throughout the NWT. Expansion of the capability of community access sites was also an important consideration.

Whenever a large group of people come together to discuss something as huge as this issue, it is clear that a consensus on priorities will not be immediately obvious. This was indeed the case in this session. Everything was questioned including the need for distance learning. In addition, with so many participants from small communities throughout the NWT, there was a lot of discussion around preparing communities, determining learning needs, aboriginal and other involvement, literacy levels and the need for a communication process, to name a few. Organizers have their work cut out for them as they proceed to the next steps determined at the focus group session.

The role for libraries in distance learning was well presented with Suliang Feng (NWT), Stan Squires (Ontario) and Marion Pape (Nova Scotia) as full participants. As trends in the information age towards the growth of computerized information networks grow, and with current developments in web based technology, the NWT Library Services is positioning itself to be a strong partner in the new NWT learning network. A recent survey in Ontario called "Public Attitudes Towards Education in Ontario, 1996" (OISE) has indicated that public libraries are playing a central role in providing public access to computerized networks, to the Internet and instructions on how to use them. This includes access to online information and services offered by all levels of government.

Following the focus group session, Marion Pape and Winnie Pietrykowski of Industry Canada met with several groups of people to further discuss opportunities for NWT communities. One meeting has resulted in the development of a joint proposal for a virtual storytelling exchange between young people in the South Slave Region and one or more regions in Nova Scotia that have been actively involved in developing community access sites. Funding is being sought to support this program in both regions of the country.

Visiting the NWT after being away for 8 years was an heady experience. It was wonderful to see dear friends, visit familiar haunts in Yellowknife's "Old Town", wander down Ragged Ass Road, and yes, to even go on a dogsled ride out on the lake. But the highlight of the visit was clearly taking an afternoon ski, with dusk settling in, along the marvellous lit cross country trails of the Hay River Ski Club --
Marion L. Pape

FUTURE ROLE OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND NATIONAL LIBRARY

The Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps announced on March 12th the launch of a consultation process on the role of the National Archives and the National Library. This consultation will be headed by Dr. John English, Professor of History at the University of Waterloo. Dr. English will consult on several key issues including how the two institutions can help preserve and provide access to the collective memory of the country. Consultations will be undertaken with stakeholders across the country. In addition, the search for a new National Archivist will proceed as soon as the consultation is completed. For more information contact: Paul Whitney, Chief Librarian, Burnaby Public Library, tel.(604) 436-5431 or e-mail: pwhitney@bpl.burnaby.bc.ca

TRAINING NEWS

Fundamentals of Acquisitions Teleconference (FOA)

On March 13th the Nova Scotia Provincial Library was a host site for the 1998 Fundamentals of Acquisitions Teleconference (FOA), sponsored by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services. Ten staff members from the NS Provincial Library, Halifax Regional Library and Mount Allison University's R.P. Bell Library were in attendance. FOA was broadcast via satellite to over five hundred participants at fifty sites in the United States and Canada. The NS Provincial Library was the only Canadian site to take part. This FOA session provided a broad overview of acquisitions processes including order claiming, fiscal management and the selection and monitoring of vendors. Current trends in acquisitions such as out sourcing and the impact of electronic publishing were also discussed. The FOA presenters, all experts in the acquisitions field, provided a very informative and enjoyable learning experience for all those in attendance.

Other Nova Scotia Regional Libraries Training News

Following a partial load of bibliographic records into Colchester-East Hants Regional Library's databank (Bank 8), 6 staff members received training in updating and adding items in bank 8.

Staff of 3 Nova Scotia regional libraries, Western Counties, Annapolis Valley and Pictou-Antigonish Regional Libraries, have received training in the new TAOS NcompasS online catalogue from Johanna Cooper. The new web based online catalogue (DRA Web2), which is the first module of the newly rewritten library software from DRA, will enable the public to access the NcompasS online catalogue from any computer equipped with an Internet connection and a web browser. DRA Web2 will also allow users to search multiple databases simultaneously.

Staff of the Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL) received training in entering encumbrances and expenditures, which are in the Acquisitions module. This supplements training in this module begun in 1997 when WCRL began using the Acquisitions module for orders, thus eliminating paper files.



Health Canada-Family Resource Centres Project
The Training Room at the Nova Scotia Provincial



Library was used by coordinators and volunteers from local Family Resource Centres. They were receiving training in E-mail and Internet usage from Chebucto Community Net project trainers. The two groups of trainees found the facility at the Provincial Library to be a comfortable and well-equipped training room. Clive Bagley, who works with the Chebucto Community Net was the trainer for both sessions. The

web site, http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Health/Population_Health/ gives an overview of the training.

STAFFING NEWS

Lois Oliver has recently commenced working as the Head of Acquisitions in the Technical Services Section of the Provincial Library. She is replacing Jane Lockwood who is on maternity leave. Lois brings her skills from the retail industry as well as those she has acquired over the last year from regional library Recon projects at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library.

LINKed

In keeping with the season, gardening sites are featured in this month's LINKed column. There are a lot of good gardening sites so the choices are limited to those with Canadian content.

I Can Garden: The Canadian Internet Gardening Resource at <http://www.ICanGarden.com/> is an award winning site many times over which is produced by Donna Dawson. It covers everything which could possibly interest the Canadian gardener including many articles on specific topics, a list of Canadian horticultural societies and garden clubs such as the *Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia Homepage* at <http://tor-pw1.netcom.ca/~scotto/dahlia/ns.html>, *Nova Scotia Organic Growers Association* at <http://www.gks.com/NSOGA/> and the *Orchid Society of Nova Scotia* at <http://www.ccn.cs.dal.ca/Recreation/OrchidSNS/orchid.html>. There is also a "Chatback" area for questions and communicating with other gardeners, information on gardening magazines and books, a Canadian zone map and contests with prizes to be won.



The Green Gardener at <http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/6123/> is an award winning Canadian site where readers can follow the gardening progress of the sites creator. There is information on some gardening books and magazines, zone information for Canadian gardeners and links to more sites. *Canadian Gardening Magazine* at <http://www.ab.sympatico.ca/mags/cangardening/> is the site for the print magazine of the same name. It has a feature article from each month's issue and discussion forums on Garden Design & Techniques, Garden Pests & Diseases, Garden Plants and Gardening Gear. *Canadian Gardener* at <http://www.tv.cbc.ca/canadiangardener/> is the Internet version of the CBC program with David Tarrant. You can search for information from past episodes and find out what will be covered on future shows or enter a *Canadian Gardener* contest.

The Virtual Gardener at <http://gardenmag.com/> is an electronic magazine published in Victoria, British Columbia. There is information on organic gardening of vegetables, a discussion area, feature articles and gardening tips. The current issue on the site is Vol. 2, No. 4 (Spring 1998). Unfortunately there is no

archive of back issues on the site. *Home Garden Information* at <http://www.nsac.ns.ca/nsdam/pt/hort/garden/index.html> is part of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing site. There is useful information any gardener can use such as notes on watering regimens for container gardening, natural nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium fertilizers, how to spot beneficial insects in your plots and pots, and manage pesky pests such as earwigs, aphids and caterpillars. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact me at cmorris@nshpl.library.ns.ca. -- Carol Morris

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Below are two reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the regional public libraries which were answered from resources found on the Internet. This month's column concentrates on using newspaper resources to answer questions.

Q. Would like a copy of an article on a red heifer from the March 16th, 1996 issue of the London Sunday Telegraph.

A. There is a site on the Internet called the Electronic Telegraph at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/> which has material drawn from the Daily and Sunday Telegraph. The archives of the Electronic Telegraph go back to November 1994 and this can be searched free upon registration. The phrase "red heifer" was entered at the search page and a full-text article entitled "16 March 1997: Jews hail birth of red cow as sign to start third temple" turned up.

Q. Information wanted on an incinerator accident at Swan Hills, Alberta in July of 1997.

A. American Journalism Review's *AJR News Links* site at <http://www.newslink.org/nonusn.html> has a list of Canadian newspapers listed by province where the Edmonton Journal site at <http://www.southam.com/edmontonjournal/> can be located. There is a search box at the top of the main page of the Edmonton Journal where you can search the newspaper files, which include back files for at least one year. When the phrase "Swan Hills" was entered, the following article was retrieved which was entitled "Suspected carcinogen detected at Swan Hills explosion - July 24, 1997". Summary: SWAN HILLS - Toxic PCBs along with dioxins and furans may have been released into the atmosphere in Monday's explosion at the Swan Hills waste treatment plant, Alberta Environment officials say. -- Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

Here are two of the latest additions to our growing Internet books collection. These items are available for circulation through the normal interlibrary loan channels.

1. Basch, Reva. **Secrets of the Super Net Searchers: the Reflections, Revelations and Hard-won Wisdom of 35 of the World's Top Internet Researchers**. Wilton, Conn: Pemberton Press, c1996. (Call # Prof. 025 .04 Bas)

This book consists of interviews with 35 of the world's stated purpose is not to amass a collection of pointers to the most significant Internet sites of the day, but to focus on the searcher's mind set and how he or she approached the research process. The book is full of principles, caveats and rules-of-thumb to be used when searching the 'Net. In all, there are 35 chapters, with detailed appendices and a glossary at the end.

2. Still, Julie, ed. **The Library Web**. Medford, NJ: Information Today, c1997. (Call # Prof. 025.04 Lib)
Julie Steele makes the point that creating a library web page requires a great deal of planning and work; as well as an ongoing commitment of staff time and computer space. Her goal is that this book will assist librarians in deciding how to go about planning a new web presence or revising an existing one. The book contains several chapters illustrating examples of academic, public and special library websites. It also has a separate section which deal with instructional materials, unique resources and commercial design, all of which should help those designing a library website.--Frank Oram